

2001 SUGAR AND SPECIALTY CROP HIGHLIGHTS

SUGAR

Sugar production for 2001 decreased 18 percent from the previous year to 246,000 tons of 96° raw sugar. A 36 percent decline in acreage for harvest accounted for the lower production. Plantations were able to harvest 1.9 million tons of sugarcane from 19,300 acres for an average yield of 97.3 tons of sugarcane per acre. Sugar prices during 2001 rebounded 14 percent to \$351 per ton of 96° raw sugar, resulting in a total value of \$86.4 million for raw sugar, a 7 percent decrease from 2000.

COFFEE

Hawaii coffee production for the 2001-02 season was 8.0 million pounds (parchment basis), down 8 percent from the previous season's harvest of 8.7 million pounds. Coffee farmers received an average of \$2.45 per pound (parchment equivalent) for the 2001-02 season, 8 percent less than the previous year. Total farm revenues are estimated at \$19.6 million, down 15 percent from the 2000-01 season.

A combination of factors resulted in lower coffee production during the 2001-02 season. On the Big Island, weather conditions played a major role as uneven rainfall produced an early and relatively short harvest. Heavy pruning of trees by some farmers following the previous season's large harvest also contributed to the downturn in output. Coffee production on the other islands was hampered by dry weather, but more significantly by changes in operation. One relatively large company closed its coffee growing operations in 2001, while two other major growers either experienced a change in ownership or management of their coffee fields.

Harvested acreage totaled 6,300 acres during the 2001-02 season, down 7 percent or 500 acres from the 2000-01 season - the largest drop in harvested acreage in 26 years.

MACADAMIA NUTS

Hawaii's 2001-02 macadamia nut crop was estimated at 56.0 million pounds net, wet-in-shell, 6.0 million pounds above the previous season's crop. Weather conditions had variable effects on orchards depending on location. Orchards in drier areas experienced a decline in useable nuts, but improved yields in orchards in areas of normally high rainfall were more than offsetting. Rains that fell in late 2001 and early 2002 benefitted orchard conditions and prospects for the 2002-03 crop in the drier areas. Lower prices in recent years have caused some smaller growers to switch from macadamia nuts to other crops. Overall yields averaged 3,150 pounds per acre (net, wet-in-shell), up 330 pounds from the previous season.

Total acreage in crop dropped 400 acres from the previous year to 18,000 acres, the lowest since the 1984-85 crop year. Virtually all acreage was harvested, totaling 17,800 acres, up 100 from a year ago.

The farm price for net, wet in-shell macadamia nuts averaged 58.0 cents per pound this season, down 1.0 cent from the previous season average, and the lowest since the 1978-79 crop. The farm value for the 2001-02 crop is estimated at \$32.5 million, up 10 percent from last year. On-going foreign competition continued to put downward pressure on Hawaii grower prices.